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REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 14th September 1901.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

2358. In view of the fact that white men are unfit for work in plantations and cannot perform the work that an Asiatic labourer can perform, the *Bengalee* says that in his *anti-Asiatic* legislation, Mr. Barton, the Federal Premier of Australia, is "killing the goose that lays the golden eggs, and retarding the progress and prosperity of the Colonies."

BENGALIEE,
8th Sept. 1901.

The Australian House has, also, just legislated against the Indian lascar. "Should Australia be invaded by a European power, the first reinforcements she would receive would be those despatched from India. In the face of the treatment Australia is disposed to accord to British Indian immigrants, one is almost tempted to wish for such a consummation, if only to teach the Australians how much they may count upon India in their hour of need."

2359. The *Bengalee* regards the anxiety of Russia to establish friendly relations with Thibet as being due to the belief that such friendship will put her in an advantageous position to menace India. A recent article in the Moscow *Viedomosti* openly admits this. Persia is already in the clutches of Russia, and as soon as Thibet shares the same fate, Russia will be in a position to commence operations against India. England should at once seek to establish friendly relations with Thibet, which could be best done through the Raja of Sikkim, whose son is already a Llama of high rank at Lhasa.

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10th Sept. 1901.

Thibet could never be bullied by threats of a Gurkha invasion. Such a policy would only meet the wishes of Russia, who could at once step in as protector.

There is in the Madras Museum a bone of Buddha, and an inscription dated 250 B. C., which was found at the spot where the relic was discovered. It is suggested that this valuable relic should be presented to the Dalai Llama as an overture to seeking his friendship.

NOTE.—It has been ascertained from the District Superintendent of Darjeeling that Kumar Tulkoo, the second son of the Raja of Sikkim, who was educated at St. Paul's School, is a Lama of Fadung Monastery in Sikkim. He has never been to Lhasa as far as is known. The eldest son of the Raja lives at Chumbi in Thibet, the summer palace of the Sikkim Raja.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2360. Referring to the result of the judicial enquiry in the Baranagore suspected murder case, the *Bengalee* appeals to the Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, to institute a searching enquiry into the conduct of the Sub-Inspector. If all that the Magistrate says is well founded, this police officer should be promptly relieved of his office and criminally prosecuted. By his delay in sending the body for *post-mortem* examination, he is responsible for the failure of justice that has resulted.

BENGALIEE,
7th Sept. 1901.

2361. The *Hindoo Patriot* hopes that the office of Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, will not be given to an officer on the verge of retirement. It was the long connection of Sir John Lambert with the Department that enabled him to bring about so many radical changes for the efficient administration of the Metropolitan police. The *Patriot* urges the appointment of an officer who would be likely to remain 10 or 12 years in the office. Such an officer as the one who now temporarily occupies the post, Mr. Halliday, would meet the requirements, and the choice of Government ought to fall on such an officer.

HINDOO PATRIOT,
7th Sept. 1901.

2362. The *Bengalee* comments on the conduct of the police in the investigation of the murders of Basantalal and his Dewan, Jagamohanlal, of Patna. The crimes were committed on the 16th August last and promptly reported by wire to the District Magistrate, the Subdivisional Officer of Barh and the Sub-Inspector of Fatwa. The latter commenced the investigation next morning, but waited till the 30th idem to

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submit a report that no reliable evidence was forthcoming to connect the people accused with the crime. The Subdivisional Officer doubted the accuracy of the report and ordered the police to send up the case in A Form.

The police are accused of incorrectly recording statements of witnesses, failing to make arrests in spite of reliable evidence, and by their dilatory conduct affording opportunities for the perpetrators to escape.

Basantalal was subjected to unbounded police persecution in 1898, and a suit against Harbans Narain and others, including the police concerned, is still pending.

These circumstances give the murders a most gruesome character.

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7th Sept. 1901.

2363. The *Bengalee* complains of the fast increasing number of village touts, whose only business is to stir up legislation and to create and suppress evidence. It is suggested

that 'honest police officers' should deal with these objectionable persons under the bad livelihood section of the Procedure Code.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Sept. 1901.

2364. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* calls attention to a complaint received from Benares regarding the conduct of police constables posted inside temples on occasions of fairs and religious gatherings. Not content with preserving order outside the temple gates, the police enter the temple precincts and post themselves at the doors, regulating ingress and egress of worshippers. This arrangement is objectionable, and prevents respectable people from sending their ladies to the temple. The police are perfectly free to do their duty outside, but they should not interfere with people entering the temples.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Sept. 1901.

2365. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* enquires the reason why all Muhammadan Police Sub-Inspectors and Kotwals are exclusively employed for nearly a decade in Benares, as it is inconceivable that Government has a "policy" in respect of such minor appointments.

(b)—Working of the Courts

BEHAR HERALD
7th Sept. 1901.

2366. The *Behar Herald* supports the opinion of Mr. Justice Amir Ali that when an agent himself is accused of a crime, his principal cannot be made liable unless for its abetment. This is a fundamental principle of criminal law, and in giving a contrary decision, the Calcutta High Court has followed the Allahabad High Court, with the result that sections 154, 155 and 156, primarily intended to stop riots, will now be used by factory-owners against the landholders.

BENGALIEE,
10th Sept. 1901.

2367. A correspondent from Khulna writes to the *Bengalee* on the necessity of a separate District and Sessions Judgeship for Khulna, as one such officer for Jessore and Khulna cannot conveniently dispose of the cases of both districts. The Additional District and Sessions Judge for Jessore, Khulna, and Backergunge does very little work for Jessore and Khulna, his time being mostly occupied at Backergunge. Besides the permanent Subordinate Judge at Khulna, the Additional Subordinate Judge of Jessore has been holding his Court at Khulna from 1899 up to the close of 1900, owing to the quantity of civil work to be done. There are likewise many criminal cases in the district, and the difficulty which the officers experience in dealing with them should have been reported to Government and remedied long ago. Great inconvenience is caused by appeals filed and admitted at Khulna during the Sessions Judge's stay there being fixed for hearing at Jessore and *vice versa*. It also frequently happens that a person coming to Jessore to file an appeal before the Sessions Judge learns that the latter has remained back at Khulna.

A permanent District and Sessions Judge for Khulna would therefore prove a better arrangement than the posting there of two Subordinate Judges.

The Editor supports the foregoing representation, and hopes the Government will not follow a penny-wise-and-pound foolish policy in dealing with the complaint of the Khulna people.

2368. Referring to Sadak Ali's case, the *Bengalee* is of opinion that the High Court committed a grievous error in quashing the conviction and reversing the sentence passed upon the other two men who were charged with the murder of Ismail Jagirdar. But for Mr. Pennell, none of the murderers would have been committed to trial.

The Noakhali murder case.

BENGALIEE,
12th Sept. 1901.

2369. Referring to the enquiry into the Baranagore suspected murder case, the *Bengalee* is of opinion that the public prosecutor should be consulted as to the advisability of instituting regular judicial proceedings with a view to the committal of the accused to the sessions. There is a strong local feeling that some of the persons incriminated should have been committed for grievous hurt. The evidence of ill-treatment against the mother-in-law, coupled with the attendant circumstances, creates a strong presumption of guilt, and the case should have gone before a jury.

The Baranagore suspected murder case.

BENGALIEE,
12th Sept. 1901.

2370. Reverting to the subject of the block in the High Court business, the *Indian Mirror* is of opinion that the increase in the numerical strength of the Judges will not remove the difficulty.

Block in the High Court business.

INDIAN MIRROR,
12th Sept. 1901.

It is suggested that the long vacation, which causes suitors great inconvenience, and leads to accumulation of arrears, be discontinued, a month's holiday being quite sufficient for the Hon'ble Judges. Curtailment of these holidays will be welcomed by the bar.

The Court should also be relieved of some work which can well be performed by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Minor suits and petty insolvencies can be entrusted to the latter Court, the Chief Judge being vested with the necessary powers. This procedure would be less cumbrous and expensive, and prove a distinct gain to the public.

It is hoped that the Government of India will note and consider these suggestions, as their adoption will be very beneficial.

(d)—Education.

2371. Writing on the subject of the Indian Educational problem, the *Indian Mirror* condemns the procedure of following the policy of reform chalked out by the Conference, instead of first giving due consideration to unofficial public opinion. The Conference is composed entirely of officials, and their deliberations are of a "confidential" nature. As the matter concerns the well-being of the nation, public opinion should be freely expressed and considered by the Government. Hitherto English education, though beneficial in some respects, has not proved successful, because a training is needed of those qualities which go to make up a great nation. Japan is an example of the result attainable by a proper system of education, and a policy of retrogression or repression is no longer suited to India, whose people must be allowed to have a larger share in its administration.

The Indian Educational problem.

INDIAN MIRROR,
10th Sept. 1901.

2372. The *Indian Mirror* is grateful to Lord Curzon for the assurance that both elementary and higher education will claim an equal share of his attention, as Government has indeed not fully done its duty towards the masses, not even one-fifth of the total number of boys of school-going age being in receipt of elementary education at present. It is impossible for people to properly exercise the franchise with regard to parochial affairs or understand their own interests without the requisite knowledge. The frequent remark that the educated community in India cannot, by reason of contrary interests, represent the masses is hardly tenable: it is the Government which has neglected the interests of the illiterate masses.

Primary education in India.

INDIAN MIRROR,
12th Sept. 1901.

Popular ignorance is likewise responsible for the misinterpretation of the best intentions of Government: it is in fact a source of the greatest danger to India, and future trouble should be avoided by breaking up mobocracy. Education will teach the masses to seek constitutional means for redress of their grievances, instead of smothering their feelings for a time and then breaking out in open violence.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

BENGALÉE,
10th Sept. 1901.

2373. Referring to the equality of taxation and the inequality of treatment of the town and suburban rate-payers of Calcutta, the *Bengalée* advises a strong representation being made to the Corporation, and if necessary to the Government of Bengal on the subject. With the exception of a supply of drinking-water, the rate-payers of the added area are deprived of such improvements as proper drainage and lighting, and the reclamation of low and marshy lands. Municipal efforts are concentrated on cleaning and improving portions of the town in utter disregard of the suburbs, showing that one class of rate-payers benefits preferentially at the expense of another.

Besides a pure water-supply and satisfactory drainage, wide, airy and straight streets are an essential feature of sanitation. This fact is being totally lost sight of in the suburbs, and the irregular building of houses will soon present the same difficulties of sanitation as the most congested parts of the town.

BENGALÉE,
12th Sept. 1901.

2374. Commenting on the proposals of the Government to provide a supply of unfiltered water to certain riparian municipalities on the banks of the Hooghly, the *Bengalée* says that the idea should be abandoned on account of the heavy tax intended to be levied for the purpose. Many of the towns actually on the river bank enjoy the free use of river water, and the rate-payers would not care to pay heavily for what they have already got. They would be glad to be provided with a filtered supply at a moderate cost, and the Government should apply itself to this task. Other sources of taxation should be thought of, or a grant made from the Provincial Government.

Profits of ferries within these municipal limits should be utilised for the purpose, and the imposition of octroi taken into consideration.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
3rd Sept. 1901.

2375. It does not speak well of the railway administration of the country, says the *Indian Empire*, that travelling should be so full of danger to Indian females. No notice appears to have been taken by the Railway authorities of the strictures passed by the Chief Justice in the notorious Asansol outrage case of 1895, nor has the suggestion of employing female ticket-collectors to check tickets of female passengers been adopted. It is hoped the Government will insist on the railways carrying out this suggestion, as well as employing pure Europeans and Indians as ticket-collectors, for they are said to show native female travellers greater consideration than others.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Sept. 1901.

2376. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains of the want of accommodation for third and intermediate class passengers, which was particularly felt on Tuesday afternoon, when the 33. up local Hooghly passenger train left Howrah.

(h)—General.

BENGALÉE,
5th Sept. 1901.

2377. While the enquiry into the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer of Madhepura is in progress, the *Bengalée* appeals to Government to transfer the officer. Otherwise no one connected with the Courts will give evidence against him.

BENGALÉE,
5th Sept. 1901.

2378. The *Bengalée* refers to Mr. Ibbetson as the next Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and pronounces him a strong but exceedingly self-willed ruler, whose Punjab training will be more or less a disqualification for the appointment, as in Bengal public opinion is a growing factor in the determination of public questions.

It is a matter of regret that Mr. Cotton, who is Mr. Ibbetson's senior and on whom the choice of the people would have fallen, should be excluded from it simply on account of his love for the people, as prominently shown in his having recently championed the cause of the coolie.

2379. Referring to the Secretary of State's remark that the "largest of modern surpluses" in the Indian Budget justified his action in refusing help to India last year on account of the famine, the *Bengalee* is of opinion that the circumstances show that the country is over-taxed. There should therefore be a reduction in taxation or the surplus spent in reforms which will benefit the entire population.

BENGALIEE,
5th Sept. 1901.

2380. The Bankipore correspondent of the *Bengalee* draws the attention of the authorities to a complaint against the Rural Sub-Registrar of Amnaur, who is accused of extorting at least five annas from every person registering a document. The amount is said to be credited to the funds of the local school, of which the Sub-Registrar is Secretary.

BENGALIEE,
12th Sept. 1901.

2381. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* offers the following suggestion to provincial rulers, District Magistrates and District Superintendents of Police for the maintenance of peace when any disturbance is apprehended—Never send out European officials with Indian subordinates to the scene of excitement, as the presence of their European superiors incites the subordinates to break the peace.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Sept. 1901.

"That is the way many riots are created in the country. The Patna disturbance owes its origin to the presence of Mr. Boylan. If an Indian Inspector were in charge of the force, no disturbance would have occurred."

III.—LEGISLATION.

2382. Referring to Lord Ampthill's remarks in the Madras Legislative Council, relating to the publication of rejected questions, the *Indian Empire* is of opinion that Government should not complain of logical pitfalls and the like, for instead of giving a simple answer to a simple question, they relish giving evasive answers and even escaping giving any answer at all through any loophole that might be presented. "Moreover, why should Government be afraid of the publication of rejected questions?"

INDIAN EMPIRE,
3rd Sept. 1901.

2383. From the behaviour of the Government in passing the Bombay Revenue Bill, it would appear to the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* that "our Government is carried on very much under the principles of unadulterated despotism. Even this would not be objected to, if the Government were not alien, and the control vested in parties having no abiding interest in the measures before them, and ignorant of the country as well as the real state of affairs."

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
11th Sept. 1901.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

2384. The Noakhali correspondent of the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* complains of the distress prevailing in the district owing to scarcity of rice and firewood. The recent heavy rains have submerged and damaged the *aman* paddy plants. Harvested *aus* paddy is decomposed, and such as has been separated has germinated.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Sept. 1901.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

2385. The *Bengalee* draws Lord Curzon's attention to the conduct of a European Government officer in Silchar, Assam, who severely whipped an old Muhammadan *khansama* under the following circumstances:—The man had lent some money to the gentleman's *khansama*, and on calling for payment an altercation ensued between the two servants. The latter complained to his master that he had been ill-treated by the other man, and the gentleman finding out, from a constable of the Narsingtola beat, near the compound, that his servant was first struck, he seized the unfortunate stranger and gave him no less than 20 stripes. A Sub-Inspector passing along the road near the place connived at the action. It would appear that shortly after the occurrence the gentleman repaired to the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow doubtless to explain matters.

BENGALIEE,
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AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
10th Sept. 1901.

The *Bengalee* suppresses the officer's name; but is sure that the Chief Commissioner would have no difficulty in finding him out and verifying facts.

2386. In describing the state of affairs prevailing in Purnea owing to the Maharaja of Darbhanga's raiyats of Dhurrumpore refusing to sow indigo or pay enhanced rents, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is certain that the dispute will eventually be amicably settled by the Maharaja.

INDIAN MIRROR,
12th Sept. 1901.

2387. The *Indian Mirror* deprecates the want of interest displayed by Englishmen in the affairs of India, as demonstrated by the fanciful picture of the country's prosperity given by Lord George Hamilton in presenting the Indian Budget to an empty House. Great Britain is so accustomed to the idea of owning India as her property that she will not realize its value until she loses it.

The *Mirror* recommends the next Congress to agitate with the object of getting Parliament to appoint an earlier day for the Indian Budget debate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
12th Sept. 1901.

2388. Referring to Mr. Caine's speech on the monies borrowed by the Government of India from Native States at unnecessarily high rates of interest, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* explains that the Government is haunted by the spectre of the distrust of the Indians, particularly of the Indian States, and was therefore led to borrow from Holkar and Scindhia to keep them attached to British rule, though it meant the sacrifice of the interests of the raiyats.

It is the same spectre that stands in the way of the reduction of the British army in India, notwithstanding the fact that recently it was proved that their employment in South Africa and China in no way weakened the security of the country. Again, in the disarmament of the people is seen the Government's distrust. Although Mr. Caine did not touch on this point in his comprehensive view of the situation in India, it is, in the opinion of the writer, a greater calamity than even the famine. Disarmament has the effect of emasculating a nation, and when it is seen that the Indians have not deserved the suspicion with which they are regarded, it is not surprising that their lives have been made miserable. The writer hopes God will lead the rulers to treat the Indians as their devoted friends and allies.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENERAL
OF POLICE, L. P.,
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 14th September 1901.

F. C. DALY,

Asst. to Insp.-General of Police, L. P.